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MDCCLXVI.

THE

PREFACE.

THE ſhort Eſſay here offered to the Reader's Peruſal, is intended by the Author, to be a Help to him in the Choice of Books, which are worthy of his Notice in the ſeveral Subjects they treat of. Something of this Sort ſeems to have been long wanted, and the prodigious Encreaſe of Books, within theſe laſt fifty Years, makes it more neceſſary to diſtinguiſh thoſe Writers, who have with Succeſs, by their Merit, obtained a valuable Character, from thoſe, who have mere-

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ly by Neceſſity, or from lucrative Views only, commenced Authors, and taxed the Publick at too dear a Rate, for their trifling and ignorant Performances. The Author is far from offering his Tract as a compleat Work, or a faultleſs Performance, but he believes, (ſhort as it is,) it may rather be redundant in Authors, than any Way deficient in pointing out thoſe of Merit. The Heads on which he has been ſhorteſt, are Divinity, Phyſick, Law, Mathematicks, Aſtronomy, Gardening, Heraldry, and other Arts; but, that thoſe who apply themſelves to any of theſe particular Studies, (the three firſt of which have Writers in Abundance,) may know where to find a fuller Account of the Authors on thoſe Subjects, I have here mentioned

ed the Books which will beſt acquaint them with the ſeveral Performances, and the juſt Character they deſerve, which are as follow: For Divinity, Bray's *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, 8vo. Wilkin's on Preaching, Bp. Beveridge's *Theſaurus Theologicus*, 4 vols. and Boſwell's Method of Studying, 2 vols. 8vo. For Phyſick, Boerhaave's Method of Studying Phyſick, and James's Medical Dictionary. For Law, Mr. Worrall's Law-Catalogue, which is a very compleat Liſt of Books, and ſome ſenſible Gentleman of the Profeſſion, will give a Character of the Books worth having. For Mathematicks, &c. the Authors cited in Mr. Chambers's Dictionary, Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, Coates's Dictionary of Heraldry, will, I believe, anſwer

the Purpoſe. If ſome abler Hand ſhall enlarge my Plan, it may be of greater Uſe: as it is, to thoſe who read in their own Language only, this may be of ſome Service; for their Uſe alone it is intended, and the Author, who has by a long acquaintance with Books, become in ſome Degree fit for this Work, would be glad hereby to be uſeful to others.

DIRECTIONS

FOR

The proper Choice of AUTHORS, to form a LIBRARY.

MANY perſons who have a great delight in reading, and are unacquainted with any language, but Engliſh, are at a loſs for want of ſome directions in the choice of proper Authors, on the ſeveral ſubjects which would improve the underſtanding and correct the judgment, as well as pleaſe the imagination at the ſame time. To aſſiſt ſuch perſons is the deſign of this ſmall performance, by giving a ſeries of the moſt eſteemed books in Hiſtory, Divinity, Morality, Poetry and Polite Literature. As to Arts and Sciences, I have been very ſhort; for whoever ſtudies any particular Science, whether Law, Phyſic, Mathematics, Aſtronomy, &c. will naturally apply to ſome ſenſible perſon ſkilful in them, for his recommendation of proper Authors to inſtruct him therein. Having had an acquaintance

with many perſons both of learning and judgment, (whoſe opinions upon moſt Authors of our nation I have repeatedly heard), and having read a great many myſelf with pleaſure, I hope I am in ſome degree fit for this taſk, which I ſhall endeavour impartially to perform. My deſign alſo, is not for a compleat Library of a great expence, but to ſuit perſons of a moderate fortune.

Hiſtory is the moſt pleaſing and uſeful ſtudy, and herein, that of our own country we ſhould be beſt acquainted with. *Geography* and *Chronology* muſt be joined thereto, and may juſtly be called the Eyes of Hiſtory; for the knowledge of time and place, when and where any great events have happened, is as neceſſary as to know by whom they were performed.

GEOGRAPHY.

For *Geography*, I would recommend Salmon's Geographical Grammar, 8vo. his Gazetteer, 12mo. and his Modern Hiſtory, 3 vols, fol.—The New General Atlas, with Senex's Maps, fol.—or, The Compleat Syſtem of Geography, with Bowen's Maps, 2 vols. fol.

CHRO-

CHRONOLOGY.

And for *Chronology*, Dr. Blair's, or Mr. Talent's Chronological Tables, fol.—Strauchius' Chronology, by Sault, 8vo.

GENERAL HISTORY.

As to *General Hiſtory*; The Univerſal Hiſtory, in 21 vols. 8vo. and the continuation of it, called Modern Hiſtory, in 46 vols. 8vo. are a Library of themſelves. The firſt work is more accurately performed than the continuation; but the plan being executed by different hands, is not done ſo well as could be wiſhed, the frequent repetitions taking up too much room, and perſpicuity is not ſo well obſerved as it ſhould be; they are indeed proper for a capital Library; but to readers in general I would ſtrongly recommend Rollin's Ancient Hiſtory, 10 vols. 8vo. or in ſmaller ſize.—Hiſtory of the Arts and Sciences of the Ancients, 4 vols. 8vo.—Prideaux's Connection of the Old and New Teſtament, 2 vols. fol. or 4 vols. 8vo. Both theſe Authors abound with judicious reflexions, are very entertaining, and deſerve the attention which their merit will procure.—Sir Walter

Ralegh's Hiſtory of the World, deſerves the ſame character. The beſt edition is in 2 vols. fol. with his life by Oldys; but the former editions of his hiſtory are equally compleat, (except in his life) only ſome better printed than others; thoſe in 1677 and 1687, are beſt printed.

Grecian History.

For the *Grecian Hiſtory*, Stanyan's Grecian Hiſtory, 2 vols. 8vo.—Archbiſhop Potter's Greek Antiquities, 2 vols. 8vo. are particularly ſuitable.

Roman History.

The *Roman Hiſtory* is ſo well and judiciouſly wrote by Rollin, in 16 vols. 8vo. and continued by Crevier, in 10 vols. 8vo. as to deſerve the preference.—Next to this, Mr. Hook's Roman Hiſtory, in 3 vols. 4to. which is a valuable work.—For ſuch who cannot afford the price, Mr. Echard's Roman Hiſtory, in 5 vols. 8vo. may ſuffice.—With pleaſure you will read the ingenious Vertot's Roman Revolutions, 2 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Middleton's Life of Cicero, 3 vols. 8vo. an elegant and entertaining work.—The Manners and

Cuſtoms

Cuſtoms of the Romans, 8vo.—and that uſeful work, Mr. Baſil Kennett's Roman Antiquities.

Several of the Ancient Hiſtorians, of late years well tranſlated, are very deſerving a peruſal; namely, Herodotus, by Mr. Littlebury, 2 vols. 8vo.—Thucydides, by Hobbes, 2 vols. 8vo. and ſince more accurately by the Rev. Mr. Smith, with valuable notes, in 2 vols. 4to.—Xenophon's life of Cyrus, by Aſhley, 2 vols. 8vo.—Xenophon's Expedition of Cyrus, by Mr. Spelman, 2 vols. 8vo.—Dionyſius of Halicarnaſſus his Roman Antiquities, 4 vols. 4to. by the ſame Mr. Spelman, an excellent ſcholar, whoſe learned and ingenious notes deſerve great commendation. —Diodorus Siculus, by Booth, fol.—Polybius, by Mr. Hampton, in 4to. or 2 vols. 8vo. —Appian, by Dryden, fol. — Arrian, by Rooke, 2 vols. 8vo.—Joſephus, by Mr. Whiſton, with large and uſeful notes, in fol. or 4 vols. 8vo.—

For the Latin Hiſtorians, Livy's Hiſtory, 6 vols. 8vo. by Mr. Hay.—Tacitus, by Sir Henry Saville and Dryden, 3 vols. 8vo. or 12mo.

12mo. a more juſt tranſlation than Mr. Thomas Gordon's, in 2 vols. fol. or 4 vols. 8vo. whoſe large political diſcourſes annexed, ſhould be read with great caution; his ſceptical principles being very freely propagated in all his writings, his ſtyle too bombaſt, yet he is ingenious I own.—Salluſt, by Gordon, 4to. or Mr. Rowe, 8vo.——Suetonius, by Hughes, 2 vols. 12mo.—Cæſar's Commentaries, by Col. Bladen, 8vo.—And theſe I think are all the ancient hiſtorians an Engliſh reader would chuſe, or need to peruſe.

Jewish History.

For the *Jewiſh Hiſtory*, ſince our Saviour's time, Mr. Baſnage's Hiſtory, fol. is the only one.—For their religion, ceremonies, and cuſtoms, Leo. Modena in 12mo. and Bundy's Introduction to the Scriptures, 2 vols. 8vo.

Modern History.

After the ruin of the Roman empire, ſeveral ſeparate kingdoms were formed, and other leſſer monarchies aroſe; for whoſe hiſtory, and the more modern times diſtinctly, pleaſe to read Puffendorf's Introduction to the Hiſtory of Europe, 2 vols. 8vo.—Campbell's Preſent

State of Europe, both of them very judicious works, and deserve a repeated reading.—Fresnoy's Method of Studying History, with a catalogue of Historians, 2 vols. 8vo. an useful book.—Ockley's History of the Saracens, 2 vols. 8vo.—Sir Paul Rycaut's Turkish History, 3 vols. fol. or the Abridgment in 4 vols. 8vo.—Voltaire's General History of Europe, 3 vols. 8vo. a good work and prettily wrote.—History of Germany, 2 vols. 8vo.—Stanyan's Account of Swisserland, an ingenious writer.

SWEDEN.

Puffendorf's History of Sweden, 8vo.—Vertot's Revolutions of Sweden, 8vo.—Bishop Robinson's Account of Sweden.—Voltaire's History of Charles XII. 8vo. These are Authors of merit.

DENMARK.

We have no good distinct history in English: Lord Molesworth's Account of Denmark, an ingenious work.

RUSSIA.

Perry's State of Russia, 8vo —Consett's History

tory of Ruſſia, 8vo.—Preſent State of Ruſſia, 2 vols. 8vo.—Voltaire's Hiſtory of the Czar Peter, 2 vols. 8vo. that truly great man.

Poland.

Dr. Connor's Hiſtory of Poland, 2 vols. 8vo.—Hiſtory of Poland under Auguſtus II. by Parthenay, 2 vols. 8vo.

Holland.

Hiſtory of Holland, 2 vols. 8vo.—Bentivoglio's Wars of Flanders, fol.—Temple's account of the Netherlands, 8vo. an entertaining work.—Burriſh's Batavia Illuſtrata, on the Dutch Trade, 8vo.—Deſcription of Holland, 8vo.

France.

Mezeray's Hiſtory in fol.—Daniel's Hiſtory, 5 vols. 8vo. are worth peruſing.—Davila's Hiſtory of the Civil Wars of France, 2 vols. 4to. or one vol. fol. and Duke de Sully's Memoirs, 3 vols. 4to, or 5 vols. 8vo. are both moſt excellent works, and deſerve a frequent reading by Miniſters of State as well as private perſons. They are indeed authors beyond the common

rank, eſpecially Sully. Voltaire's age of Lewis XIV. and his Hiſtory of the late War with France begun 1741, 8vo. He is a moſt lively and entertaining writer, but his volatile imagination too often runs away with his judgment, and ſometimes miſrepreſents truth. He cannot be quite relied on in facts relating to religion, to which he is no great friend, though as a man of humanity, he is a thorough enemy to perſecution, bigotry and tyranny.

SPAIN *and* PORTUGAL.

Mariana's Hiſtory of Spain, fol. a good author.—Lady's Travels into Spain, by Madam Du Nois, 2 vols. 12mo.—Account of Portugal, by Dr. Colbatch, 8vo.—Vertot's Revolutions of Portugal. All Vertot's hiſtorical writings deſerve a careful reading; he is a firſt rate author.

ITALY.

Guicciardini's Hiſtory, in 10 vols. 8vo. a valuable author.—Nani's Hiſtory of Venice, fol.—Machiavel's Hiſtory of Florence, 8vo. an author, whoſe character has been traduc-

ed, by his real principles being miſunderſtood, a great genius, a faithful hiſtorian.—Giannone's Hiſtory of Naples, 2 vols. fol. a valuable author.—Rycaut's Lives of the Popes, fol.—Mr. Bower's Hiſtory of the Popes, 7 vols. 4to. An ingenious gentleman, and I hope a real Proteſtant.—Farneworth's Life of Pope Sixtus V.—Gordon's Life of Pope Alexander, and Cæſar Borgia, fol. both worthy of a careful peruſal.—But above all, Father Paul's Hiſtory of the Council of Trent, fol. An Author by no means to be wanting in any collection; his ſubject important, his performance equal, in which Popery is fully detected in its arts and fraudulent conduct.—To which if you add Limborch's Hiſtory of the Inquiſition, by Dr. Chandler, you will have ſatisfaction enough as to the Papal Hiſtory and artifices.

GREAT-BRITAIN, SCOTLAND, *and* IRELAND.

For our own country, it will be proper to be more copious. As to its deſcription, Camden's Britannia, by Biſhop Gibſon, 2 vols. fol. claims the firſt place juſtly, being an excellent work.—Tour through Great Britain, 4 vols.

4 vols. 12mo.—England's Gazetteer, 3 vols. 12mo.—Camden's Remains, 8vo.—Ray's Engliſh Proverbs, 8vo. Theſe all deſerve to be had for their real uſefulneſs. Biſhop Nicolſon's Engliſh, Scotch, and Iriſh Hiſtorical Libraries, fol. is a moſt uſeful work, as it contains an account of all the hiſtorical writers worth notice (to his time in 1714) relating to thoſe kingdoms, and its particular counties by whom deſcribed. Stowe or Maitland's Hiſtory, in 2 vols. fol. of the great and opulent Metropolis of London, which with Weſtminſter and Southwark, are but as one city, are either of them an uſeful and curious work.—London and its Environs, in 6 vols. 8vo. is a pretty work, but injudiciouſly ſtuffed up with a liſt of obſcure lanes, alleys, &c. which in a ſecond edition it is hoped will be left out, or put at the end in ſmaller print.

We have yet no very good hiſtory of our own country, nor I fear ever ſhall.——The bias on the mind of every Writer, to him perhaps imperceptible, miſleads him in his reflections, and the turn he gives to facts. The leaſt exceptionable I think is Rapin's

Hiſtory, with Tindal's continuation, in 5 vols. fol. or 28 vols. 8vo. Rapin is a very good Writer, and more impartial than any I have met with. Smollet's Hiſtory is in a lively ſtyle, his characters ſtrongly painted, but his unhappy bias is too evident. Mr. Hume's Hiſtory, in 6 vols. 4to. or 8 vols. 8vo. has its merit as an ingenious work; but his viſible diſeſteem for religion, and his careleſſneſs in ſome facts, make it not ſo valuable a work, as ſo capable an Author might have rendered it. For a ſhort hiſtory, Mr. Kimber's in one volume 8vo. is the beſt.—Biſhop Kennet's Collection of Engliſh Hiſtorians, and his own continuation, in 3 vols. fol. is a very valuable work. Baker's Chronicle, fol. is a very proper book for a young perſon to read; his method is good.—Salmon's Chronological Hiſtorian, 2 vols. 8vo. is a very uſeful manual. Thoſe who would know well our ancient conſtitution in church and ſtate, muſt read Selden's Diſcourſes on the Laws and Government of England, by N. Bacon, fol. an excellent work.—Tyrell's Hiſtory of England, 5 vols. fol.—and Dr. Brady's Hiſtory 3 vols. fol.

STATE

STATE AFFAIRS.

For underſtanding minutely *State Affairs* from Henry VIII. to the Revolution, you may conſult the following works publiſhed from original manuſcripts. Dr. Hayne's and Mr. Murdin's State Papers, from Henry VIII. to James I. 2 vols. fol.—Dr. Forbes's State Papers in Q. Elizabeth's reign, 2 vols. fol.—Sir Philip Sidney's State Papers, 2 vols. fol.—Sir Anthony Bacon's State Papers, by Dr. Birch, 2 vols. 4to.—Sir Ralph Winwood's Memorials, 3 vols. fol.—Lord Strafford's Letters, 2 vols. fol.—Secretary Thurloe's Collection of State Papers, 7 vols.—Duke of Ormond's Life and Letters, by Carte, 3 vols. fol.—State Tracts in King Charles II. and James II's reign, 2 vols. and in King William's reign, 3 vols. fol. But theſe collections are more ſuited to a nobleman's Library, than a moderate Collection.

Some particular authors there are, who have copiouſly treated of intereſting times.—The Reformation from Popery is ſo important an æra in our hiſtory, as deſerved the accurate account which Biſhop Burnet's hiſtory

tory of it in 3 vols. fol. has given. It is a moſt valuable work; thoſe who cannot afford to purchaſe it, ſhould buy his abridgement of in 8vo. or 3 vols. 12mo. His ſtyle in all his writings is eaſy, clear and familiar. An author, I think, that will be more eſteemed, as he is more read. The accurate Mr. Strype, in his Annals of the Reformation, 4 vols. fol. and his Memorials of it, 3 vols. fol. has cleared up many facts. Biſhop Stillingfleet's Church Hiſtory, fol. a truly great learned and good man, with Dr. Inett's continuation in 2 vols. are the beſt account of ancient times. Mr. Collier's Church Hiſtory, 2 vols. fol. comes to Charles II's reign; is a good ſtyle and well methodized: but his partiality is too viſible to every reader.

For our unhappy diſſentions in the reign of Charles I. Lord Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, is the fineſt work, the beſt edition is in 3 vols. fol. it is alſo in 6 vols. 8vo. his continuation of it lately publiſhed in one volume fol. with his life, or in 3 vols. 8vo. are extremely deſerving of a careful peruſal. His ſtyle is maſculine, elegant and perſuaſive, and

though,

though we cannot help obſerving too ſtrong a bias to Charles I. yet we can ſcarce avoid forgiving both him and his hero whilſt we read him. On the ſame ſide, are Lord Holles's Memoirs, 8vo.—Sir Philip Warwick's Memoirs, 8vo. On the contrary Side, Gen. Ludlow's Memoirs, fol. or 3 vols. 8vo. Dr. Harris's Lives of James I. Charles I. Oliver Cromwell, and Charles II. 2 vol. all 8vo. are all worth reading, being well wrote. The accurate and authentick memorials of Sir Bulſtrode Whitlocke, fol. deſerve attention. Ruſhworth's Hiſtorical Collections, 8 vols. fol. have many valuable papers in them. Mr. Drake's Parliamentary Hiſtory in 24 vols. 8vo. is a curious and valuable work, and neceſſary to be read by all who would rightly underſtand our conſtitution, which it fully explains. Chandler's Parliamentary debates of Lords and Commons, from 1660 to 1742, in 22 vols. 8vo. is alſo an eſteemed work.—Anchitell Grey's Collection of Debates, in 10 vols. 8vo. is authentick and valuable. Biſhop Burnet's Hiſtory of his own Times, 4 vols. 8vo. deſerves a frequent reading. The cavils which have been publiſhed at it by Swift, Higgons and Salmon, being in general

groundleſs and trifling. It is indeed a valuable work.

Lord Bolingbroke's Diſſertation on Parties, 8vo. his Remarks on Engliſh Hiſtory, 8vo. and his Political Tracts, 8vo. are all I can recommend of that elegant and noble author. Sir William Temple's Memoirs, 2 vols. and Letters, 3 vols. 8vo. deſerve reading; he is a fine writer, and may be depended upon. Wellwood's Memoirs 12mo. is a very proper book, and a pretty ſketch of our affairs from 1588 to 1688. Echard's Hiſtory of the Revolution, 8vo. I would alſo recommend to the reader. The Critical Hiſtory of Sir Robert Walpole, 8vo. by Mr. Ralph, is well wrote.

SCOTLAND.

For *Scotland*, Buchanan's Hiſtory, in 2 vols. 8vo.—Melvill's Memoirs, 8vo. a faithful and accurate writer, and Robertſon's Hiſtory, 2 vols. 4to. or 8vo. all well deſerve a careful reading, and are, (eſpecially the laſt) very entertaining. Maitland's Hiſtory, 2 vols. fol. a fuller account, but not of equal Eſteem.

IRELAND,

IRELAND.

For *Ireland*, Sir James Ware's Hiſtory, fol. Sir Richard Coxe's Hiſtory, 2 vols. and Dr. Warner's Hiſtory in 4to. are the beſt we have. It is a pity Dr. Warner did not meet with encouragement to compleat his work.

PEERAGE.

Collins's *Peerage* of England, 6 vols. Engliſh Baronetage, 5 vols. Lodge's Peerage of Ireland, 4 vols. an accurate work; and the Scotch Compendium, 12mo, are very uſeful books.

NAVAL HISTORY.

Our beſt *Naval Hiſtory* is Mr. Lediard's, 2 vols. fol. to which add Dr. Campbell's Lives of the Admirals, 4 vols. 8vo. an entertaining work, as every thing is, which that ingenious gentleman has publiſhed.

TRADE.

As to the *Trade* of theſe kingdoms, the following writers deſerve attention, Dr. Davenant's Pieces, 7 vols. 8vo. Child on Trade, 12mo. Gee on Trade, 12mo. Britiſh Mer-

chant, 3 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. Locke, on Coin, 12mo. Cunningham's Hiſtory of our Taxes, 8vo. Lockyer on our Eaſt India Trade, 8vo. Stevens on the Spaniſh Weſt India Trade, 8vo. Plan of the Britiſh Commerce, 8vo. But the two moſt compleat works are Mr. Anderſon's Hiſtory of Commerce, 2 vols. fol. and Poſtlethwayte's Dictionary of Commerce, 2 vols. fol. both juſtly in eſteem. Sir William Petty's Eſſays in Political Arithmetick, 8vo. are excellent on that ſubject.

Biography.

The Lives of eminent Men, are a very entertaining and uſeful part of knowledge. Mr. Bayle's Hiſtorical Dictionary, in 5 vols. fol. and the *Biographia Britannica,* in 7 vols. fol. are the moſt compleat works on this ſubject, and deſerve a place in a Library. But being of a high price and voluminous, the generality of readers may be well entertained by an abridgement of thoſe two works, with ſeveral additional lives, called, A new Biographical Dictionary, in 11 vols. 8vo. which though it has too many errors, both of the Authors and Printers, yet is a very uſeful work :

For

For ſome very eminent perſons, both of antiquity and modern times, we ſhould have their lives at large. Plutarch's lives, 8 vols. with Mr. Rowe's ſupplement, 8vo. Stanley's Lives of the Philoſophers, fol. or 4to. Dr. Prideaux's Life of Mahomet, 8vo. and Xenophon's Memorable Things of Socrates, may ſuffice. All of them works deſervedly in eſteem.

Of the Moderns, The Life of Eraſmus, by Dr. Jortin, 4to. Biſhop Wickham, by Dr. Lowth, 8vo. Cardinal Woolſey, by Mr. Grove, 4 vols. 8vo. Archbiſhop Cranmer, by Strype, fol. Dean Collet, by Dr. Knight, 8vo. The learned Grotius by Burigny, 8vo. Lord Bacon, by Mallet, 8vo. Biſhop Bedell and Sir Matthew Hale, by Burnet, 8vo. The great Mr. Boyle, and the pious and judicious Abp. Tillotſon, by Dr. Birch, both in 8vo. Chillingworth, by Deſmaizeaux. Dr. Samuel Clarke, by Mr. Whiſton. All are faithfully wrote, and well deſerve reading for the eminence of the perſons. Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienſe*, 2 vols. fol. being an account of all the writers educated at Oxford. Ward's Lives of the Profeſſors of Greſham College, fol. are works

of merit and uſe. Mr. Horace Walpole's Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, 2 vols. 8vo. and his Anecdotes of eminent Painters, 3 vols. 4to. are both of them very ingenious, entertaining, and uſeful performances.

TRAVELS *and* VOYAGES.

Travels and Voyages are ſo inſtructive and agreeable a ſtudy, many ſhould have a place in the Library of thoſe who can afford the expence. The moſt valued collections are, Hakluyt's, in 2 vols. fol.—Purchas's Pilgrims and Pilgrimage, 5 vols. fol.—Churchill's Collection, 6 vols. fol. planned by Mr. Locke, and Dr. Harris's General Abridgment of Voyages and Travels, both by Foreigners and Engliſh, very accurately and elegantly improved by Dr. Campbell, in 2 vols. fol. is juſtly a moſt eſteemed and entertaining work.

Travels round the WORLD.

For particular *Travellers round the World*, Lord Anſon's Voyage, 4to. or 8vo. a moſt judicious work and elegant in ſtyle.—Dampier's Voyages, 3 vols. 8vo.—Cooke's Voyages, 2 vols. 8vo.—Woods Rogers's, 8vo. As theſe and the following travellers are in general eſteemed

teemed for their fidelity, accuracy, and the entertainment they give, ſo a particular remark on each is unneceſſary.

EUROPE.

For *Europe*, the beſt are Keyſler, 4 vols. 4to. or 8vo. juſtly eſteemed.—Mr. Blainville, 3 vols. 4to. a judicious and entertaining author, and deſerves to be better known than he at preſent is.—Mr. Wright's Travels, 4to. very accurate.—Montfaucon's in Italy, fol. or 8vo.—Mr. Ray's, 2 vols. 8vo.—Tournefort, 2 vols. 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo.—Miſſon, 4 vols. 8vo. an entertaining but careleſs writer.—Dr. Edward Brown, fol.—Buſbequius in Turkey, ambaſſador to the Grand Seignior. Grelot to Conſtantinople, 12mo.—Biſhop Burnet, 12mo. deſerves often reading.—Mr. Addiſon, 12mo.—Dr. Patin, 12mo. all very juſtly eſteemed. The Grand Tour of Europe, 4 vols. 12mo. by Mr. Nugent, a very uſeful book.—Baron Polnitz's Memoirs, 4 vols. 8vo. or 5 vols. 12mo. is a very entertaining account of Germany chiefly.—Lady Wortley Montague's Letters, 3 vols. and Dr. Smollett's Travels, 2 vols. lately publiſhed, will entertain you much.

ASIA

A S I A.

Authentic and in eſteem are all the following travellers: Mr. Sandys, fol.—Sir Thomas Herbert, fol. 1677.—Thevenot, fol.—Tavernier, fol.—Sir John Chardin, fol. and two additional volumes, in 8vo.—Sir John Fryer, fol.—Sir George Wheeler, fol.—Mr. Chiſhull, fol.—Dr. Shaw, a curious and accurate man, fol. or 4to.—Mr. Drummond, fol.—Mr. Le Bruyn, 3 vols. fol.—Biſhop Pococke, 2 vols. fol. whoſe numerous drawings in 200 copper plates, renders it ſtill more valuable.—Yſbrant Ydes, 4to.—Mr. Hanway, 2 vols. 4to. full of judicious and ſenſible remarks, which well deſerves a frequent peruſal.—Mr. Bell, 2 vols. 4to.—Norden, 2 vols. fol. or in 8vo.—Rauwolf, &c. by Ray, 2 vols. 8vo.—Maundrell, 8vo.—Ovington to Surat, 8vo.—Knox's Hiſtory of Ceylon, fol.—Hamilton's Voyages, 2 vols. 8vo.—Le Comte's Travels, in China, 8vo.—Jeſuits Voyage to Siam, 8vo.—D'Arvieux and La Roque, to Arabia, 12mo.—Pitt's to Mecca, 12mo.

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In AFRICA.—Dampier's Deſcription of it

by

by Ogilby, fol. and Ludolphus's Hiſtory of Ethiopia, fol. are juſtly eſteemed.

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The Religious Ceremonies of all Nations, 7 vols. fol. Montfaucon's Antiquities, 7 vols. fol. Ruins of Palmyra, fol. Ruins of Baalbeck, fol. Stewart's Antiquities of Athens, fol. are all elegant works, and deſerve a place in the Libraries of the curious.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, MATHEMATICKS *and* ASTRONOMY.

A little knowledge in *Natural Philoſophy*, *Mathematicks*, *Aſtronomy*, and the other Arts, would be agreeable to moſt readers, and in ſome degree uſeful to all. I ſhall be conciſe ontheſe heads, and only mention thoſe moſt in eſteem, and which afford, in an eaſy manner, uſeful knowledge. Chambers's Dictionary of Arts, 2 vols. fol. and the Supplement, 2 vols. fol. Keill's Natural Philoſophy, 8vo. Maclaurin's Account of Sir Iſaac Newton's Diſcoveries, 8vo. or 4to. Ward's Introduction to Mathematicks, 8vo. Ray's Wiſdom of God in the Creation, 8vo. Derham's Phyſico and Aſtro-Theology, 2 vols. 8vo. Whiſton's Theory of the Earth, 8vo. Burnet's Theory of the Earth, 2 vols. 8vo. ingenious, but on falſe principles; but the ſtyle and thoughts are ſo beautiful, it deſerves reading. Fontenelle's Plurality of Worlds, 12mo. Harris's Aſtronomical Dialogues, 8vo. Religious Philoſopher, 3 vols. 8vo. Nature Diſplayed, 7 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. Mr. Harris's Uſe of the Globes and Orrery, 8vo. or

Dr. Watts's Uſe of the Globes, 8vo. All theſe deſerve reading, and are very juſtly in great eſteem.

Physick.

For *Phyſick*, Mackenzie on Health, 8vo. Cornaro on Health, 12mo. Cheyne on Health, 8vo. Arbuthnot on Air and Diet, 2 vols. 8vo. Dr. Mead's Medical Precepts, 8vo. Fuller's *Medicina Gymnaſtica*, 8vo. Cheyne's Engliſh Malady, 8vo. Shaw's Practice of Phyſic, 2 vols. 8vo. Quincy's Lexicon, 8vo. Mr. Boyle's Receipts, 12mo. Gerrard's Herbal, fol. 1636. Pomet on Drugs, 4to. Tournefort's Herbal, 2 vols. 4to. But temperance and a virtuous life, with a kind and obliging wife, (for a wife can render a huſband happy or miſerable, if he is of a lively quick temper,) theſe united, are the ſureſt preſervatives of health, and on which we may juſtly expect God's bleſſing.

Gardening.

Miller's Gardener's Dictionary, fol. or the Abridgement in 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo. His Gardener's Kalendar, 8vo. Lawrence on Gardening

dening, 8vo. Evelyn's Sylva, fol. Mortimer's Huſbandry, 2 vols. 8vo. Duhamel's Huſbandry, 4to. New Syſtem of Huſbandry, 4 vols. 8vo. Bradley's new Improvements in Planting and Gardening, 8vo. Tull's Huſbandry, 8vo. Whoever intends to make either Huſbandry or Gardening his employment or amuſement, may have a variety of proper authors on thoſe innocent and uſeful ſubjects, by the recommendation of perſons ſkilful therein, too numerous to give them a place here: and the ſame may be ſaid of Phyſic and other Sciences.

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, *and* ARCHITECTURE.

De Pile's Art of Painting, 8vo. Da Vinci on Painting, 8vo. Richardſon on Painting and Statues, 3 vols. 8vo. Laireſſe's Art of Painting, 4to. Monier's Hiſtory of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving, 8vo. Evelyn's Chalcography, 8vo. Polygraphick Dictionary, 2 vols. 8vo. Salmon's Polygraphice, 2 vols. 8vo. The Handmaid to the Arts, 2 vols. 8vo. Evelyn's Parallel of Architecture, fol. Salmon's *Palladio Londinenſis*, 4to. Half-

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Guillim's Diſplay of Heraldry, fol. or the Abridgment, 2 vols. 8vo. Kent's Grammar of Heraldry, 8vo. Coates' Dictionary of Heraldry, 8vo. Synopſis of Heraldry, 12mo. Dugdale's ancient Uſage of bearing Arms, 12mo.

Cookery.

Mrs. Glaſs's Art of Cookery, 8vo. Chapelle's Compleat Cook, 8vo. are moſt eſteemed.

Mechanick Arts.

As to the *Mechanick Arts*, Moxon's Mechanick Exerciſes in 4to. 2 vols. for the 8vo. edition is not ſo compleat.

Military Science.

Bland's Military Diſcipline, 8vo. Horneck, Cochorn, and Vauban, on Fortification. Gray's Art of Gunnery, 8vo. Robin's on Gunnery, 8vo. Muller's Works on that Subject, 5 vols. 8vo. Many others may be added.

Musick *and* Dancing.

Theſe can only be learnt by practice.—For the

the Theory, Dr. Smith's Harmonics, 8vo.—Aviſon on Muſical Expreſſion, 8vo.—Morley on Muſick, fol.—Malcolm on Muſick, 8vo.—Holder on Harmony, 8vo. are all in eſteem. Eſſex's Compleat Dancing Maſter, 4to. the beſt I believe.

DIVINITY,

The moſt important of all knowledge, and the eaſieſt underſtood, ſo far as will conduce to our happineſs here and hereafter, but not the eaſieſt to practiſe. To bear and forbear are the chief things to be put in practice. The practical and hiſtorical parts of the Holy Bible cannot be too often read, and will ſeldom want a commentator. Some parts appear obſcure, but are explained beſt by comparing them with other paſſages. Some help may be neceſſary, for which let me recommend Biſhop Patrick and Dr. Lowth on the Old Teſtament, 4 vols. fol. or thoſe who cannot afford theſe, Dr. Pyle on the Old Teſtament, 4 vols. 8vo. and on the Epiſtles, 2 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Clarke's excellent paraphraſe and notes on the Goſpels, 2 vols. 8vo.—Mr. Locke's judicious work on St. Paul's Epiſtles, in 4to.—Mr. Pearce and Hallet on the remaining

maining Epiſtles, 4to. Thoſe who would conſult more fully, may have recourſe to Dr. Whitby on the New Teſtament, 2 vols. fol. —Dr. Doddridge on the New Teſtament, 6 vols. 4to. which two have with moſt learning and judgment explained the ſame. Biſhop Pearſon on the Creed, fol.—Biſhop Burnet on the 39 Articles, fol.—Mr. Chillingworth's works, fol. Theſe three learned and ſenſible authors, though neceſſary only to a divine, yet well deſerve to be read by every ſerious perſon. Mr. Burkitt's Practical Expoſition of the New Teſtament, fol. is very proper for a family book. For other practical authors, to enforce Religion as an active principle, we have many excellent writers. I ſhall only recommend ſome few of the moſt judicious, and who beſt deſerve a peruſal. Dr. Clarke on the Catechiſm, 8vo.—his Sermons, 8 vols. 8vo.—Lucas's Enquiry after Happineſs, 2 vols. 8vo.—Lowth's Directions for reading the Scripture, 12mo.—Biſhop Patrick's Advice to a Friend, 12mo.—Goodman's Winter Evening Conference, 8vo. his Penitent pardoned, on the parable of the prodigal ſon, 8vo.—Weſt on the Reſurrection, 8vo.

8vo.—Biſhop Sherlock's Trial of the Witneſſes, 8vo.—Dr. Jortin on the Chriſtian Religion, 8vo.—Religion of Nature delineated, 8vo.—Locke's Reaſonableneſs of Chriſtianity. Burgh's Dignity of Human Nature, 4to.—And of our many Preachers, greatly ſuperior in that talent to all other nations, (too many to be here recited) the following excellent writers ſhould be read, Archbiſhop Tillotſon's Sermons, 3 vols. fol. or 12 vols. 8vo.—Archbiſhop Sharpe's Sermons, 7 vols. 8vo. or 12mo.—Biſhop Sherlock's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo.—Dean Sherlock's Sermons, 2 vols. 8vo. Biſhop Atterbury's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo.—Dr. Whichcot's Sermons, 4 vols. 8vo. If you add to theſe, Dr. Stanhope on the Epiſtles and Goſpels, 4 vols. 8vo. and Mr. Nelſon on the Feaſts and Faſts, I believe you will have no occaſion to purchaſe more on this ſubject, unleſs your own curioſity ſhould lead you to enter into the controverſies between the Church of England, the Catholicks and Diſſenters. But this I neither adviſe, nor ſhall therefore mention the writers upon it; only Dr. Middleton's Letter from Rome, is ſo ingenious a performance I cannot omit it.

Ecclesiastical History.

For *Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory*, Echard's in fol. or 2 vols. 8vo.—Whiſton's Sacred Hiſtory, 6 vols. 8vo.—Dupin's Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory. 8 vols. fol. or abridged in 4 vols. 12mo. The beſt yet extant is Moſheim's Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory, in 2 vols. 4to.

Morality.

Authors herein are ſo numerous, and the taſte of readers ſo various, I ſhall only mention thoſe who have been univerſally eſteemed. Seneca's Morals by Leſtrange, 8vo.—Epictetus's Morals by Dr. Stanhope, 8vo.—Antoninus's Meditations, by Collier, 8vo.—Collier's Eſſays, 3 vols. 8vo.—Plutarch's Morals, 5 vols. 8vo.—Lord Bacon's Eſſays, 8vo. Charron on Wiſdom, by Dr. Stanhope, 3 vols. 8vo.—Paſchall's Thoughts, 8vo.—Cicero's Offices by Dr. Cockman, 12mo.—Gentleman's Library, 12mo.—Ladies Library, 3 vols. 12mo.—Dean Bolton on the Employment of Time, 8vo. and his Letters on the Choice of Company, 8vo. are two moſt excellent treatiſes, and very entertainingly written; the reader will be pleaſed they were pointed out particularly.—Mr. Locke's Eſ-

ſay on the Human Underſtanding, 2 vols. 8vo. his Conduct of the Underſtanding, among his poſthumous works, 8vo. both excellent treatiſes. Dr. Watts's Logic, 8vo. and his Improvement of the Mind, 8vo. a valuable author, and deſerving to be read. Lord Bacon's Works, 3 vols. fol. and Mr. Locke's Works, 3 vols. fol. ſhould be in every Gentleman's Collection.

Government.

Sidney on Government, fol. by Dr. Birch. Milton's Political Works, by Dr. Birch, 2 vols. fol. or 4to.—Locke on Government, 8vo. and Biſhop Hoadly on Government, 8vo. are ſufficient, I believe. For the *Law of Nations*, Grotius on War and Peace, with Barbeyrac's notes, fol.—Puffendorf's Law of Nature, with Barbeyrac's notes, fol.—Monteſquieu's Spirit of Laws, 2 vols. 8vo.—Wood's Inſtitute of the Civil Law, fol.—Domat's Civil Law, with Dr. Strahan's Notes, 2 vols. fol. But this head is rather unneceſſary for the generality of readers; But members of parliament and gentlemen of fortune ſhould be well read herein.

English Law.

A very few, and yet ſome few, are neceſ-

ſary for gentlemen, who do not intend to ſtudy it as a profeſſion. The beſt are Wood's Inſtitute of the Common Law, fol.—Dr. Blackſtone's Commentaries, 4to.—Cay's Abridgment of the Statutes, 2 vols. fol.—Mr. Burn's Juſtice, 2 vols. 4to. or 3 vols. 8vo. Every Man his own Lawyer, 8vo.—Law Quibbles detected, 8vo. a very neceſſary book. Sir Matthew Hale's Pleas of the Crown, 2 vols. fol.—Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown, fol.—St. Amand on the Legiſlative Power, 8vo. a very judicious work. Pettyt's *Jus Parliamentarium*, fol. — Gurdon's Hiſtory of the High Court of Parliament, 2 vols. 8vo. Pettyt's Rights of the Commons, 8vo.—Sir Richard Atkyn's Parliamentary Tracts, 8vo. a ſenſible writer.

Entertainment.

Books of *Entertainment*, as ſo called, are a very numerous claſs, in which too many noxious and libertine doctrines are apt to be either encouraged or excuſed. I will endeavour to keep as clear of theſe as I can, for the ſake of the Fair Sex eſpecially. This claſs may be juſtly ſubdivided into works of Wit and Humour,

mour, or of fictitious Life, called Novels, which are ſome grave, ſome jocoſe.

WIT *and* HUMOUR.

For *Wit and Humour*, the beſt I know are as follows: Don Quixote, by Smollett, 4 vols. 12mo. The trueſt maſter of humour, mixed with judicious reflections is Cervantes.—Gil Blas, 4 vols.—Fielding's Joſeph Andrews, 2 vols.—Tom Jones, 4 vols.—Amelia, 4 vols. the moſt commendable of all he wrote.--Pompey the little.—Dr. John Echard's Works, 8vo.—Sprat's Obſervations on Sorbiere's Voyage, 8vo.—Dr. King's Miſcellanies, 2 vols. 8vo.—Mr. Hildrop's Works, 2 vols. 12mo.—Boyle againſt Bentley, 8vo.—Colley Cibber's Life, 12mo. theſe five laſt are ſterling wit. Dr. Swift's Works, and Dr. Smollett's Novels, cannot be omitted, perhaps, without being deemed a neglect: yet ſo much indelicacy are mixed with theſe Gentlemen's entertaining talents, that I cannot recommend them ſo much as I could wiſh: no Authors want more to have their works corrected, to render them truly valuable.

ROMANCES *or* NOVELS.

For *Romances or Novels*, the beſt of this kind are Sir Thomas More's Utopia, 8vo.—Travels of Cyrus, 2 vols. 8vo.—Telemachus, 2 vols. 12mo.—Gaudentio di Lucca, 8vo.—Robinſon Cruſoe, 2 vols. 12mo.—Mrs. Aubin's Novels, 3 vols. 12mo.—Belle Aſſemblée, 4 vols. 12mo.—Clariſſa, 8 vols. 12mo. Sir Charles Grandiſon, 7 vols. 12mo.—Adventures of Millenium Hall, 12mo.—Virtuous Orphan, 2 vols.—Raſſelas, 12mo.—Almoran and Hamet, 2 vols. 12mo.—Hiſtory of the Severambians, 8vo.—Cervantes's Novels.—Falconer's Voyages.—Boyle's Voyages. Amuſements of the Spa, 2 vols.—Conſtantia, 2 vols.—Sir George Elliſon, 2 vols. an excellent book. Leiſure Hours Amuſement.—Perſiles and Sigiſmunda, 2 vols.—Vicar of Wakefield, 2 vols.

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Works of *Humour and Morality united*, are juſtly in great eſteem. With theſe our language abounds, all worth reading. The moſt diſtinguiſhed are, The Spectator, 8 vols.—Guardian, 2 vols.—Tatler, 4 vols.—Freeholder,

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Lord Lyttelton's Perſian Letters, 12mo. Monteſquieu's Perſian Letters, 2 vols. 12mo. Lady Mary Wortley Montague's Letters, 3 vols. 12mo. Mr. Howell's Letters, 8vo. an uſeful book. Mr. Locke's Familiar Letters, 8vo. his poſthumous Pieces, by Mr. Deſmaizeau, 8vo. Indeed all Mr. Locke's works, in 3 vols. fol. ſhould be in every Library, he is ſo excellent a writer. Sir William Temple's Works, in 2 vols. fol. or 4 vols. 8vo. alſo well deſerve a place. Cicero's Letters to Atticus, by Guthrie, 2 vols.

8vo. Cicero's Familiar Letters, by Melmoth, 3 vols. Pliny's Letters, by Mr. Melmoth, 2 vols. 8vo. the elegance of this Gentleman's tranſlations cannot be ſurpaſſed or ſcarcely equalled. Sir Thomas Fitzoſborne's Letters, 8vo. Bruyere's Characters, 2 vols. 12mo. Sir William Temple's Eſſays, 2 vols. 8vo. Montaigne's Eſſays, 3 vols. 8vo. Sir Walter Raleigh's Works, 2 vols. 8vo. Religious Courtſhip, 8vo. Sir Thomas Browne's Vulgar Errors, and his *Religio Medici*, fol. an excellent author. Lord Halifax's Advice to a Daughter, and other works, 12mo. Mrs. Rowe's Letters from the Dead, 8vo. Minute Philoſopher, 2 vols. 8vo. Madam Maintenon's Life and Letters, 6 vols. 12mo. A Comparative view of the Faculties of Man and Animals, 12mo. a very ingenious performance.

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The laſt head we are now come to, which is *Poetry and the Claſſics in Engliſh:* Of ſome uſe on this head it will be to read, The Lives of the Claſſic Writers, 2 vols. 12mo, ſecond Edition. Cruſius's Lives of the Roman Poets, 2 vols. 12mo. Blackwell on the Claſſics, 12mo. Felton's Introduction to the Claſſics, 12mo. Obſervations on the Style and Beauties of the Greek and Roman Claſſics, by a very ingenious Gentleman *now living*, 12mo. all theſe deſerve to be peruſed, and are of a ſmall price. For *Tranſlations*, Homer by Mr. Pope, in what Size you pleaſe; that in 11 vols. 8vo. is a fine Edition; it is alſo in 11 or 7 vols. 12mo. Heſiod by Mr. Cook, 12mo. or 4to. Pindar by Mr. Weſt, 4to. or 12mo. Anacreon by Mr. Addiſon, 12mo. Callimachus by Mr. Dod, 4to. Sophocles by Mr. Franklyn, 2 vols. 4to. all theſe Greek Poets are very well tranſlated. Of the Roman, Virgil by Dryden, 3 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. Virgil by Pitt and Warton, 4 vols. 8vo. Horace by Francis, 4 vols. 8vo. or 12mo. or 2 vols. 4to. Juvenal and Perſeus by Dryden, 12mo.

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I ſhould be ſorry to have omitted any ingenious Poet's works, but we have ſo many

valuable ones of our nation, that it would take up too much room to name them all: I believe the above are the moſt eminent, and againſt which no exception can lie, as to the moral turn of them; to which I have endeavoured to have regard in all the Works of Wit and Humour.

Dramatick Writers.

As to our *Dramatick Writers*, theſe are ſo numerous, and yet ſo few whoſe writings are fit for young perſons, that they will ſoon be named; Shakeſpeare is, beyond doubt, the firſt genius of this ſpecies: his works have been ſo often publiſhed, I hardly know which edition to recommend; you may chooſe either Mr. Theobald's, in 8 vols. 12mo. or Mr. Warburton's, in 8 vols. 8vo. or Mr. Johnſon's, in 8 vols. 8vo. theſe have their ſeveral admirers. Ben Johnſon's Works, fol. or 7 vols. 8vo. by Whalley. Beaumont and Fletcher, 7 vols. 8vo. with notes. Rowe's Plays, 7 vols. 12mo. Mr. Cibber's Plays, 4 vols. 12mo. Mrs. Cent-Livre's Plays, 4 vols.—Shadwell's Plays, 4 vols. Otway's Othello, and Venice preſerved. Farquhar's Plays.—

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Southerne, 2 vols. Sir Richard Steele's, 12mo. Some ſelect Plays, Mariamne, Fall of Saguntum, George Barnwell, Cato, Suſpicious Huſband, Edward and Eleonora, Theodoſius. Many more may be read, taking the judgment of a diſcreet friend in the choice. But too many are not fit to be put into young perſons hands, as they would taint the mind otherwiſe well inclined.

For ſome account of our Poetic and Dramatick Writers and their works, Jacob's Lives of the Poets, 2 vols. 8vo. Cibber's Lives of the Poets, 5 vols. 12mo. Mr. Warton's ingenious Eſſay on the Genius and Writings of Pope. Lord Orrery's Life of Swift, 8vo. and Dean Swift's Memoirs of Dean Swift, 8vo.

For our Language, the beſt Dictionary is Mr. Johnſon's, 2 vols. fol.—For common uſe, Dyche's Dictionary, by Pardon, 8vo, or Bailey's Dictionary, 8vo. Dr. Lowth's Engliſh Grammar, 12mo. and Mr. Harris's Hermes, 8vo.

I here finiſh this Liſt, and my Obſervations, conſcious it is far from a compleat Perfor-

 mance,

mance, which indeed would be a large work, if attended with proper criticiſms on all the authors and their works. Such as it is, I can truly ſay, I have no where either commended an author without merit, or cenſured any perſon's writings through partiality, or any private view; deſirous to give no offence, and to be of uſe as far as I can. Having ſubmitted this Eſſay to the opinion of ſome very ſenſible Gentlemen, who have encougaged its publication, I have conſented thereto; and I wiſh it may meet with candor and a favourable allowance from the Reader.

N. N.

April 25th, 1766.

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